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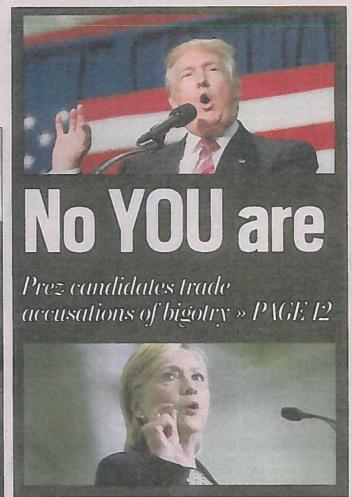
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NARCAN HELP

Capital Health helps police with overdose recovery » PAGE 3











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DRUGS

Capital Health helps cops combat heroin epidemic

By Sulaiman Abdur-Rahman

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HOPEWELL TOWNSHIP » The impact of heroin and the death toll from accidental drug overdoses is as concerning to Mercer County's law-enforcement officials as it is to the local-area doctors who have taken an oath to prevent diseases wherever they can.

At least 55 people died from accidental drug overdoses in Mercer County last year, and at least 25 people in the county have died from an accidental overdose this year, according to the Mercer County Medical Examiner's Office. Many of those deaths were heroin-related.

"We are losing kids: we are losing people con- president of Capital are in this field, our job is nate free supplies of Narstantly, and that is re- Health, said Thursday to save people." ally difficult for us," Al of the deadly opioid epi-



SULAIMAN ABDUR-RAHMAN - THE TRENTONIAN

Hamilton Police receive a fresh supply of Narcan courtesy of the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office and Capital Health at the medical center in Hopewell Township Thursday, Aug. 25, 2016. From left: Hamilton Police Lt. Joseph C. Klimaszewski, Hamilton Police Chief James Collins, Mercer County Acting Prosecutor Angelo Onofri and Capital Health CEO Al Maghazehe.

Maghazehe, CEO and demic. "For all of us who Prosecutor Angelo On-

ofri has sought to minimize the deadly effects of heroin and other opiate-based substances ever since he had spearheaded an initiative in November 2014 to supply all police agencies in Mercer County with Narcan. a powerful drug that reverses the effects of a heroin overdose.

But that batch of Narcan expired at the end of July, forcing Onofri to supply the police departments with enough additional vials of Narcan until the county could make permanent arrangements to get quick, easy and cost-effective access to large quantities of the life-saving drug on an asneeded basis.

The Mercer County Prosecutor's Office asked Capital Health whether it would be willing to docan replenishments, and Mercer County Acting the health system happily obliged.



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Mercer County Acting Prosecutor Angelo Onofri demonstrates how Narcan is administered during a press conference at Capital Health Medical Center - Hopewell on Thursday, Aug. 25, 2016.

tor asked us to team up reversed by Narcan, but with the county, we ob- 10 people died and it was viously welcomed that,"

Maghazehe said Thursday during a press conference with Onofri at the Capital Health Medical Center in Hopewell Township.

"Dr. Maghazehe, we can't thank you enough for supplying the Narcan to all of the police departments here in Mercer County," said Onofri, who then distributed those 530 vials or \$13,000 worth of Narcan to the officers at the press conference.

Narcan deployment

Since the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office implemented its Narcan deployment initiative on Nov. 5. 2014, the powerful drug as of Wednesday has been administered 131 times throughout the county on victims suffering from a drug overdose. The Mercer County stats show 115 "When the prosecu- of those overdoses were

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